

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

On page 1, please replace the section starting at line 9 with the following amended section:

BENEFIT OF EARLIER FILED APPLICATIONS

This application is a divisional of co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. 09/709,393, filed on 11/13/2000, which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/164,723, filed November 12, 1999, U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/165,643, filed November 15, 1999, and U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/165,651, filed November 15, 1999, all of which are hereby incorporated herein by reference.

On page 8, please replace the paragraph on line 19 with the following amended paragraph:

~~Fig. 2 illustrates~~ Figs. 2A-C illustrate an exemplary network of the invention.

On page 9, please replace the paragraph on line 5 with the following amended paragraph:

~~Fig. 7 is~~ Figs. 7A-D are an exemplary flow diagram of a method of using the system of the invention.

On page 10, please replace the paragraph starting on line 6 with the following amended paragraph:

Communication of data occurs over a network, such as a LAN, WAN, internet, or the network illustrated in the various Figures. ~~Fig. 2 illustrates~~ Figs. 2A-C illustrate an exemplary network of the invention. The network 300 illustrated in the ~~Fig. 2~~ Figs. 2A-C includes, for

example, a client 310, a local internet service provider (ISP) 312, a universal print job acceptor (“UPJA”) 320, a storage unit (e.g. a mini store) 330, and multiple web servers 315. Connection to the network 300 can also occur, for example, by modem or dial-up telephone connection, or as readily understood by one having skill in the art. The network 300 described in ~~Fig. 2~~ Figs. 2A-C is exemplary and can be modified as readily understood by one having ordinary skill in the art.

On page 10, please replace the paragraph starting on line 15 with the following amended paragraph:

The network 300 can be divided, for explanatory purposes, into three sections: the client side of the network 300a, the back end side of the network 300b and the printing side of the network 300c. Communication between the client side 300a, the back end side 300b and the printer side 300c occurs, for example, through the network 300. As illustrated in ~~Fig. 2~~ Figs. 2A-C, added levels of security, such as use of firewalls, ensure that information sent over the network 300 is not disturbed (e.g. the information is not modified, changed or breached). Generally speaking, a user on the client side 300a of the network can request printing from, for example, a personal computer, and generate a document for shipping and/or delivery from printer side 300c. The back end side 300b of the network 300b is transparent to the user.

On page 13, please replace the paragraph starting on line 1 with the following amended paragraph:

With reference to Figs. 2A-C and 3, the client 310 (e.g. a terminal, personal computer, PDA, mobile phone, etc.) stores, for example, local applications 310a such as Word™ or

PowerPoint™, print drivers 310b, a port monitor 346, an upload manager 310c and a browser 310d. The local applications 310a can be used to create or download a document (the term “document” is being used to broadly refer to any data or information that can be transmitted over the network 300) that the user can ultimately forward to the print side 300c for shipping and/or delivery to a specified location. Print driver 310b builds and creates objects necessary to communicate with the selected printing device (e.g. a printer directly attached to the client 310, a printer on the network 300 or a printer located at the printer side 300c). The upload manager 310c is responsible for compressing and transferring files (e.g. documents) over the network. The browser 310d, such as Internet Explorer™ or Netscape Navigator™, is used to download print drivers 310b, and to view and order documents. Downloading of this data preferably occurs prior to requesting a print job. Of course, other systems and methods may be used to browse and download print drivers and view or order documents as one having ordinary skill in the art would recognize. For example, print drivers 310b may be loaded onto the client 310 by reading software stored on a recordable medium. The upload manager 310c communicates with the UPJA 320, for example, via Extensible Markup Language (XML) messages over http/https. XML allows browser clients to download an HTML page and then manipulate the page off line, without referring back to the server. The main task of the upload manager 310c and UPJA 320 is to transfer and compress files (preferably secure PostScript print files) via, for example, a Secure Socket Layer (SSL).

On page 15, please replace the paragraph starting on line 8 with the following amended paragraph:

After a document has been sent to the UPJA 320, it can be downloaded to the printer side 300c. The printer side 300c allows the user on the client side 300a to print, bind and deliver documents that have been uploaded and stored on the network 300. The physical location of the print side 300c can be anywhere relative to the client side 300a and back end 300b. In the preferred embodiment, print side 300c is located in a printing facility next door to a delivering company such as Federal Express™. Documents are downloaded to a storage unit (e.g. main storage) located on print side 300c, as illustrated in ~~Fig. 2~~ Figs. 2A-C, and then replicated on printers for ultimate shipping and delivery of the completed product to an address or location specified by the user. The completed product is an actual representation of the virtual product created by the user on the client side 300a. For example, a user may select a file that has been created using a standard editor such as Word™. The file may then be edited or modified by selecting font size and color, binding and paper using the interface opened by browser 310d. More specifically, Figs. 4 and 5 illustrate exemplary diagrams of a user requesting a file to be printed using the system and method of the present invention. Operation of the system and method are discussed below.

On page 18, please replace the paragraph starting on line 15 with the following amended paragraph:

~~Fig. 7 is~~ Figs. 7A-D are an exemplary flow diagram of a method of using the system in the invention. The flow illustrated is merely an example of one embodiment of a process that a user accessing the system may perform. The user creates a document in a local application 310a on, for example, their personal computer (600), and prints the documents from the application to

the selected print driver 310b (605). The document is printed as a postscript document (610). The upload manager 310c then uploads the postscript print file to the UPJA 320 over http/https (615), and the upload manager launches the web browser 310d for document viewing (620). The user can then configure the finishing and binding options for the document using the interface on the personal computer (625). Once document configuration information is validated, the user inputs shipping and payment data on the interface (630). The shipping and payment data are verified, and the print file is put in long term storage (635). The finishing and binding options are then combined with the postscript file to create a print ready file (640), and the print ready file is sent to the print queue (645) and transferred to the production facility (i.e. printing facility). A printer operator can then select a job and queues it to an available printer (655), and the job is ripped and sent to the printer (660). The printer punches and/or binds the job on-line (665), and the package is sent for delivery (675). The user is able to track the package, receive the package and open the package (680-690).